

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 VO-03 ORM-02

CIAE-00 SSO-00 /029 W

-----241010 025140 /11

O P 240908Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6322

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

INFO US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 359

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 1201

HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR FELDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, APER, CGEN, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: CONDITIONAL ENTRY
PROGRAM

REF: (A) HONG KONG 2017 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 040705,
(C) KUALA LUMPUR 1038 (NOTAL), (D) KUALA LUMPUR 1031 (NOTAL),
(E) KUALA LUMPUR 1030 (NOTAL), (F) HONG KONG 01671,
(G) KUALA LUMPUR 0715 (NOTAL), (H) KUALA LUMPUR 0679 (NOTAL),
(I) STATE 20567, (J) 76 SINGAPORE 5568, (K) 76 STATE 299088

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION. REF A INFORMED POST AVAILABILITY
100 CE MEMBERS DURING MARCH 1977, URGED EFFORTS TO UTILIZE
THESE THAT MONTH (BUT NOTED NON-PREFERENCE NUMBERS
AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THOSE WHOSE PRIMARY DATES ARE BEFORE
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1 AUG 76), AND REQUESTED REPORT BY COB TODAY (2/24/77) OF
NUMBER OF INS FORMS I-590 AND FORMS FS-510 RECEIVED
FROM VOLAGS OR REFUGEES. VOLAG DOCUMENTATION SUPPORT
MECHANISM HOWEVER NOT RPT NOT ESTABLISHED HERE AND
CURRENT EMBASSY CONSULAR STAFFING IS INADEQUATE TO
DEAL WITH WORKLOAD POSED BY LONG TERM US REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. WE FORESEE MAJOR CRUNCH

THREATENED BY OUR INABILITY TO COME UP WITH
NON-PREFERENCE NUMBERS FOR ACCOMPANYING FAMILY
MEMBERS IN MORE TIMELY FASHION. ACTION REQUESTED:
(A) DEPT TO ENCOURAGE VOLAG TO ESTABLISH OFFICE
HERE ASAP TO HELP WITH DOCUMENTATION WORKLOAD;
(B) URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN OUR OUTSTANDING
REQUEST FOR NEW AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER POSITION;
AND (C) REVIEW CE/NPV EQUATION TO DETERMINE HOW
PROCESS CAN BE EXPEDITED, ASSUMING FAMILIES WILL NOT
RPT NOT WANT TO BE SEPARATE AND LACK OF MOVEMENT
MAY IMPERIL UNHCR ABILITY TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN
PRINCIPLE OF GRANTING TEMPORARY ASYLUM FOR
REFUGEES BY REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION.

2. IN RESPONSE REF A, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO RPT
NO COMPLETED FORMS I-590 OR FS-510 SINCE: (A) NOT RPT
NO VOLAG OFFICE YET ESTABLISHED HERE TO ASSIST IN
PREPARATION THIS DOCUMENTATION PER REF H (SEE ALSO
REFS F AND G), AND (B) CE PACKETS JUST RECEIVED IN
PAST TWO WEEKS AND THUS SUBSEQUENT TO LATEST VISITS
BY EMBOFFS TO REFUGEE LOCATIONS ON MALAYSIAN EAST
COAST AND STATES OF SABAH AND SARAWAK ON ISLAND OF
BORNEO. IN INTERREGNUM BETWEEN EPP AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF NEW CE PROGRAM EMBASSY HAS CONTINUED TO USE EPP
CRITERIA AND TO SEND FALCON REQUESTS AND BIO CABLES
TO DEPT FOLLOWING PERSONAL INTERVIEWS (DATES OF
BIO CABLES, WE NOTE FROM REF B, ARE TO BE
REGARDED AS ESTABLISHING PRIORITY REGISTRATION
DATES FOR NPV NUMBERS, PENDING IMPLEMENTATION
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PROCEDURES OUTLINED PARAS 5 AND 6 SAME REF).

3. WE ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT IMPACT OF LENGTHY
DELAYS IN AVAILABILITY NPV NUMBERS FOR ACCOMPANYING
DEPENDENTS OF PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS UNDER CE PROGRAM.
AS NOTED REF D, WE HAVE 100 PRINCIPAL APPLICANT
CASES OUTSTANDING (REPRESENTING ADDITIONAL 342
DEPENDENTS; 442 TOTAL) OUT OF TOTAL REFUGEE POPULATION
IN MALAYSIA, AS OF FEB 10, OF 911. AS NOTED REFS
C AND E, GOM HAS PRESENTED UNHCR OFFICE HERE
FORMAL DEADLINE OF JUNE 30 OF REMOVAL OF ALL BOAT
CASE REFUGEES IN COUNTRY (AS OF JAN 31, 1977)
FOLLOWING WHICH GOM INDICATES IT MAY EXERCISE OPTION
OF RETURNING THEM TO INTERNATIONAL WATERS. GOM
INFORMED UNHCR SUBSEQUENT ARRIVALS WILL BE ALLOWED
TO REMAIN ONLY FOR SIX MONTH PERIOD FOLLOWING THEIR
"DATE OF INTERVIEW." WE CONSIDER, IT HIGHLY
UNLIKELY THAT CE QUALIFIED PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS WILL
CHOOSE TO PROCEED TO US IN ADVANCE OF THEIR FAMILY

MEMBERS WHO ARE AWAITING NPV NUMBERS. HENCE WE SEE
AN ALREADY SERIOUS BACKLOG HERE WORSENING AS NEW
BOATLOADS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE.

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00
INSE-00 SSO-00 /029 W

-----241011 025063 /11

O P 240908Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6323
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
INFO US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 360
/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 7972
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
A/AMEMBASSY MANILA 5415
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR FELDMAN

4. UNCERTAINTY RE AVAILABILITY OF NPV NUMBERS
ALSO UNDERMINES ABILITY OF UNHCR REP TO USE
ARGUMENT OF CONTINUED MOMENTUM FROM US SIDE IN
NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOM ON CONTINUED GRANTING OF
TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO REFUGEES. LENGTHY DELAYS ALSO
ADD TO FRUSTRATIONS OF REFUGEES AND IMPEL THEM TO
ACTS OF DESPERATION SUCH AS TAKEN BY THOSE WHO
RECENTLY OPTED TO LEAVE MALAYSIAN CAMPS AND GO
ABOARD THE WCRP VESSEL, THE "ROLAND."

5. ALTHOUGH WE WELCOME SYSTEMIZING PROCEDURES
RATHER THAN RELYING ON AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS,
ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD, EVEN AFTER VOLAG REP ARRIVES
ON SCENE, WILL FURTHER ENCUMBER OUR ALREADY OVER-
BURDENED ONE OFFICER CONSULAR SECTION. ALONG
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THESE LINES WE SHARE MISGIVINGS REPORTED BY SINGAPORE (REF J). OUR STAFFING PROBLEMS, NOTED IN PREVIOUS CALBES, ARE COMPLICATED BY DISPERSAL OF REFUGEES AT ISOLATED LOCATIONS ALONG EAST COAST, SARAWAK AND SABAH, NECESSITATING LENGTHY TRAVEL TIME BY EMBOFFS CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS: IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH OPERATIONAL ASPECTS, REQUEST DEPT: (A) TO ENCOURAGE SPEEDY ACTION BY CHURCH WORLD SERVICES (CWS) TO IMPLEMENT PLANS FOR OFFICE HERE, AND (B) TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO OUR OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL AMERICAN OFFICER TO CONSULAR SECTION (PREFERABLY WITH PREVIOUS CONSULAR EXPERIENCE).

7. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A COMPELLING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF ALLOTING ANY UNUSED CE NUMBERS TO ACCOMPANYING DEPENDENTS OF THOSE WITH PRIORITY DATES AFTER 1 AUG 76 IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING, IF INDEED THIS IS NOT RPT NOT ALREADY CONTEMPLATED. IN ALL OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH UNHCR AND OTHER MISSIONS HERE WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE US, HAVING DONE SO MUCH TO DATE, NOW MUST ASSUME A MORE LIMITED ROLE AS PART OF A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT RPT NOT FORESEE A SEVEN MONTH LAG IN NPV AVAILABILITY, WHICH ALREADY EXCEEDS THE GOM'S PROJECTED SIX MONTH RESETTLEMENT DEADLINE. SUCH DELAYS MAY NOT ONLY RESULT IN UNDUE PERSONAL HARDSHIP FOR FAMILIES BUT ALSO IMPERIAL BASIC POLICY OBJECTIVES SHARED BY OURSELVES AND UNHCR OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PRINCIPLE OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM ON PART OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MINIMIZE INHUMANE PRACTICE OF SHOVING REFUGEE BOATS BACK TO SEA. WE BELIEVE US PARTICIPATION IN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM HAS HAD VALUABLE DEMONSTRATION

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EFFECT IN INDUCING OTHERS TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE, HOWEVER, THAT IF OUR EFFORTS FALTER (EVEN IF ONLY FOR BUREAUCRATIC REASONS, DESPITE OUR BEST INTENTIONS) THAT OTHERS WILL FILL THE GAP. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND INS/HONG KONG THOUGHTS HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. PLEASE ADVISE.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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